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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,093	10/31/2003	Bruno Devos	DEVO3003/JEK	1453
23364	7590	09/21/2005	EXAMINER	
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			OLANDER, GABRIEL D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2879	

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/697,093

Applicant(s)

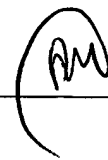
DEVOS ET AL.

Examiner

Gabriel D. Olander

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 11-14, & 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoksza et al (US 5410328).

Claim 1: Yoksza discloses a display pixel module for use in a configurable large-screen display application (lines 10-20, column 1), said module having front (fig. 1, 54), side (fig. 1, 18), upper and lower rear walls (fig. 1, 12 & 16), and comprising an array of pixels mounted at the front wall of the module (fig. 3B) and provided with input and output connectors (fig. 4, 38) wherein at least some of the side walls and of the upper and lower walls are tapered inwardly (fig. 1), enclosing an angle with the front wall and including a mounting device to enable fixing the module on a mounting surface of a display (fig. 1, 32 & 34 & 36).

Claim 2: Yoksza discloses the display pixel module according to claim 1. wherein the side walls, the upper wall, and the lower wall are all tapered inwardly (fig. 2A).

Claim 3: Yoksza discloses the display pixel module according to claim 1, wherein said mounting device comprises at least two clips protruding from the rear of the pixel module (fig. 1, 32 & 34).

Claim 7: Yoksza discloses the display pixel module according to claim 1, wherein the pixels are formed by light-emitting diodes (title of reference patent).

Claims 8 & 11: Yoksza discloses the display pixel module according to claim 1, including a housing which is formed of an enclosure which is covered at the front by means of a shader (fig. 1, 24).

In regards to the recitation "has a texture to improve the contrast ", it has been held that the recitation of an element being capable of performing a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchison*, 69 USPQ 138.

Claim 12: Yoksza discloses the display pixel module according to claim 8, wherein the enclosure accommodates a pixel printed circuit board on which said array of pixels is mounted (fig. 2B, 44).

Claim 13: Yoksza discloses the display pixel module according to claim 8, said module including a rear wall wherein the enclosure accommodates a driver printed circuit board which is equipped with an input connector and an output connector (lines 2-15, column 2) protruding through apertures in the rear wall of the enclosure (both input and output are connected through fig. 4, 42).

Claim 14: Yoksza discloses the display pixel module according to claim 12, wherein the driver printed circuit board is equipped with a board-to-board connector that can cooperate with a corresponding connector on the pixel printed circuit (fig. 2A, 46).

Claim 17: Yoksza discloses the display pixel module according to claim 1, to which are arranged on a mounting surface to form a 2D or 3D display (fig. 3B, 100).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-6 & 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoksza et al (US 5410328) in view of GB 840,329.

Yoksza discloses a display pixel module according to claim 3 as detailed above. Yoksza does not disclose said display pixel module comprising a clip or snap notch, clip or snap stop, or a clip notch taper including an angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of the clip.

GB 840,329 discloses a clip or snap or snap notch (fig. 2, 16), a clip or snap stop (fig. 2, 14), and a clip notch taper including an angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of the clip (fig. 2, 17). These features may be used to attach a tube or box to a slotted panel (lines 30-35, page 2).

The addition of the clip or snap features disclosed above in GB 840,329 to said display pixel module as disclosed by Yoksza would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in order to attach boxes together.

Claims 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoksza et al (US 5410328) in view of Libregts (US 5,733,154).

Yoksza discloses a display pixel module according to claim 12 as detailed above. Yoksza does not disclose said display pixel module comprising a flexfoil in order to interconnect circuit boards.

Libregts discloses the use of a flexfoil as "widely used for interconnecting electrical components" (lines 10-11. column 1).

Including the flexfoil as disclosed in Libregts with the display pixel module disclosed in Yoksza would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention so as to electrically connect circuit boards.

Claims 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoksza et al (US 5410328) in view of Paffrath (US 6,220,732).

Yoksza discloses a display pixel module according to claim 13 as detailed above. Yoksza does not disclose said display pixel module comprising a metallic mount to make contact with a screw that can be grounded.

Paffrath discloses the use of a screw that is mounted in such a way as to provide for an electrical grounding for a device (fig. 3, 86 & 94).

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Including the screw mount disclosed in Paffrath with the display pixel module disclosed in Yoksza would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention so as to electrically ground the device.

Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gabriel D. Olander whose telephone number is 571-272-6011. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on 571-272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

G.O.

Gabriel Olander
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Art Unit 2879


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